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January 15, 2014

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H. *Jefielding*  
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **QUARTERLY REPORT – WATER QUALITY MONITORING OF  
SMALL WATER SYSTEMS**

On November 29, 2011, on a motion by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, the Department of Public Health (DPH) was instructed to provide quarterly reports on its water quality monitoring of small water systems. Attached is the quarterly report covering the period July 1 through September 31, 2013. The report summarizes water quality findings in small water systems throughout the County and outlines the actions taken by the DPH Environmental Health Division in response to these findings.

Our next quarterly report will be provided to the Board in February 2014. If you should have any questions in the interim, please let me know.

JEF:rl  
PH:1111:009

Attachment

c: Chief Executive Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

**Quarterly Report on Water Quality Monitoring for  
Small Water Systems in Los Angeles County**

**July 1 through September 31, 2013**

County of Los Angeles  
Department of Public Health  
Environmental Health Division  
January 2014

## BACKGROUND

On July 13, 2010, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors instructed the Environmental Toxicology Laboratory of the Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures to conduct an expanded study of the small well water facilities in the County of Los Angeles to determine the presence of Arsenic, Total Chromium, Hexavalent Chromium (chromium+6), and Lead as a follow-up study to an earlier study published on February 14, 2001.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) Drinking Water Program (DPH-DWP) serves as the local enforcement agency for California's Drinking Water Standards applicable to "small water systems" in Los Angeles County. A small water system is defined by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) as a system that has less than 200 service connections. The DPH-DWP currently inspects 180 small water systems within the County.

Operators of each small water system are required to complete bacteriological and chemical analyses of their potable water supplies, and to report monitoring results to the DPH-DWP at frequencies established by the CDPH. Failure to take water samples or to properly report sampling data constitutes a violation of State law enforceable by the DPH-DWP.

When water quality test results indicate that either (a) the system does not meet State Drinking Water Standards, or (b) an immediate health risk is present, the water system operator is required to: 1) notify consumers immediately, and 2) take corrective action to achieve compliance with State Drinking Water Standards. When the level of a chemical contaminant exceeds ten times the State Drinking Water Standard, the operator must discontinue water service and provide an alternative source of drinking water to consumers.

The DPH-DWP works with the CDPH to enforce State law and to assist the water system in addressing violations for any chemical contaminant exceeding the State's Drinking Water Standards. Once a Notice of Violation is issued and consumers are notified of the exceedance, the water system is placed under increased surveillance while public notices continue to be posted. The DPH-DWP continues to educate and work with the water system regarding the installation of treatment systems, as well as the consideration of new water sources. Additionally, the DPH-DWP works with system operators in applying for financial assistance from the CDPH to address identified violations.

On November 29, 2011, the Board instructed DPH to prepare quarterly reports on water quality monitoring in order for the Board to stay informed of current water quality issues. This report covers the period July 1 through September 31, 2013.

## BACTERIOLOGICAL/MICROBIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY

### A. Bacteriological Sampling Requirement

The DPH-DWP issues corrective orders to small water systems for failing to perform bacteriological analyses at the frequency required by State law. The DPH-DWP issued Notices of Violation and Order to seven water systems for lapses in bacteriological sampling during the reporting period.

Table 1: Small Water Systems in Violation of State Requirements to Perform Bacteriological Analyses.

System ID	Small Water System	City
1907024	AGUA DULCE FOURSQUARE CHURCH (LIVING SPRINGS)	AGUA DULCE
1900794	ANTELOPE PARK MUTUAL WATER COMPANY	LANCASTER
1907023	The CHURCH OF HOPE of SANTA CLARITA VALLEY	SAUGUS
1900612	COLBY RANCH-UNITED METHODIST CAMP	PALMDALE
1900730	GARDENS OF PARADISE PARK	AGUA DULCE
1907036	NEW APOSTOLIC CHURCH BOUQUET CANYON	SAUGUS
1900868	RIVERS END TRAILER PARK	CANYON COUNTRY

The DPH-DWP has notified each water system to ensure that water samples are collected immediately. The DPH-DWP continues to educate and provide assistance when financially disadvantaged water systems are unable to test their water.

The Rivers End Water System has not been in compliance with the State Drinking Water Standards for more than two years. As a precaution, the DPH-DWP has issued a Notice of Violation to the owners of the system for non-compliance. Since there are tenants living on-site, DPH-DWP has directed the facility to post a Public Notice (Do Not Drink) informing the residents not to drink the water. Additionally, the DPH-DWP revoked the water system's operating permit in December 2013. The Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning is reviewing the water system's Conditional Use Permit and an Administrative Hearing is scheduled in 2014.

This facility has remained on the Quarterly Water Quality Report since ownership was changed for the water system without a complete Water Supply Permit application being submitted to DPH. DPH-DWP has issued a precautionary Boil Water Notice while the facility continues to operate illegally and water samples are not collected.

### B. Exceedances of the Bacteriological Standard

The DPH-DWP also issues corrective orders to small water systems for exceeding the State's Bacteriological Standard. The DPH-DWP issued five Notices of Violation and Order for bacteriological exceedances during the reporting period.

**Table 2: Small Water Systems in Violation of the State's Drinking Water Standards for Bacteriological Levels.**

System ID	Small Water System	City
1907020	FIRE CAMP 9	SANTA CLARITA
1900639	HALLELUJAH PRAYER CENTER	LAKE VIEW TERRACE
1900038	LANCASTER PARK MOBILE HOME PARK	LANCASTER
1907018	SUMMERHILL EQUESTRIAN CENTER	SAUGUS
1900583	USFS-JACKSON LAKE V-4	WRIGHTWOOD

All five water systems initially tested positive for coliform bacteria, an indicator used to signal the potential presence of *E. coli*, a potential pathogen. Follow-up analyses did not detect the presence of *E. coli*, and neither coliform bacteria nor *E. coli* have been detected in subsequent testing of these small water systems.

### **C. Microbiological Treatment Requirement**

Small water systems are designated as "Surface Water Systems" when they use water from streams, lakes, and open reservoirs. Similarly, small water systems are designated as "Groundwater Systems Under the Direct Influence of Surface Water" (GWUDI) when their wells are in close proximity to such features.

These small water systems are required to implement "multibarrier treatment," an enhanced preventative measure against potential contamination. During the reporting period, the DPH-DWP maintained increased surveillance at six small water systems that have previously been notified regarding their designation as Surface Water Systems or GWUDI Systems but have not completed full implementation of multibarrier treatment.

**Table 3: Small Water Systems Designated as Surface Water and GWUDI That Have Not Met the Microbiological Treatment Requirements.**

System ID	Small Water System	City
1900904	ACTON CONSERVATION CAMP 11	ACTON
1900007	CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CAMP 14	SAUGUS
1900901	FIRE SUPPRESSION CAMP 19	AZUSA
1900764	HENNINGER FLATS – LA COUNTY FIRE DEPT	ALTADENA
1900591	STURTEVANT CAMP, UNITED METHODIST	ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST
1900569	TRASK SCOUT RESERVATION- SAN GABRIEL	MONROVIA

The DPH-DWP is continuing to work with these water systems to develop and implement multibarrier treatment systems.

Trask Scout Reservation–San Gabriel (Water System 1900569) collects water from a stream as its only supply of potable water. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) has determined that Trask Scout Reservation has not met the required frequency for monitoring the water supply for *E. coli*, a potential pathogen also used as an indicator for other pathogens. The DPH-DWP has been working with the US EPA and the CDPH on issuing enforcement actions to bring Trask Scout Reservation into compliance with Federal and State regulations.

## CHEMICAL WATER QUALITY

### A. Exceedances of the Arsenic Standard

Small water systems that have had chronic exceedances of the State's Arsenic Standard are required to continue notification of their customers. During the reporting period, the DPH-DWP maintained increased surveillance at thirteen small water systems that have previously been notified regarding Arsenic levels historically exceeding the State Standard (10 parts per billion).

Table 4: Small Water Systems Under Increased Surveillance for Chronic Exceedance of the State's Drinking Water Standard for Arsenic.

System ID	Small Water System	City
1900894	ACTON FOUR SQUARE CHURCH	ACTON
1900228	BIG DALTON DAM	GLENDORA
1900305	CHALLENGER MEMORIAL YOUTH CAMP	LANCASTER
1900038	LANCASTER PARK MOBILE HOME PARK	LANCASTER
1900100	METTLER VALLEY MUTUAL	LANCASTER
1900785	MITCHELL'S AVENUE E MOBILE HOME PARK	LANCASTER
1907036	NEW APOSTOLIC CHURCH BOUQUET CANYON	SAUGUS
1907007	NORTH HOLLYWOOD SPORTSMEN'S CLUB	SAUGUS
1907031	RANCHO YBARRA CHRISTIAN CAMP	TUJUNGA
1907018	SUMMERHILL EQUESTRIAN CENTER	SAUGUS
1900987	U.S. FOREST SERVICE OAK FLATS S-13	CASTAIC
1900520	VILLAGE MOBILE HOME PARK	LANCASTER
1900961	WINTERHAVEN MOBILE ESTATES	LANCASTER

Acton Foursquare Church (Water System 1900894) has proposed a system for the treatment of Arsenic in their potable water supply. The DPH-DWP is currently reviewing the proposal in conjunction with the CDPH. An alternative water supply is being provided while the system is under review.

Big Dalton Dam (Water System 1900228), New Apostolic Church Bouquet Canyon (Water System 1907036), and Rancho Ybarra Christian Camp (Water System 1907031) have proposed treatment plans for Arsenic in their potable water supplies which are currently under review by the DPH-DWP. Since the water treatment proposals require additional information, DPH-DWP has extended the review period until June 2014 and will continue to work with all three water systems until final approval. In the interim, DPH-DWP has directed the facility to post a Public Notice informing the members of the church about the elevated levels of Arsenic and Nitrate.

### B. Exceedances of the Nitrate Standard

During the reporting period, the DPH-DWP maintained increased surveillance at two small water systems that have previously been notified regarding Nitrate levels historically exceeding the State Standard (45 parts per million). These small water systems are also required to continue notification of their customers.

Table 5: Small Water Systems under Increased Surveillance for Chronic Exceedance of the State's Drinking Water Standard for Nitrate.

System ID	Small Water System	City
1900894	ACTON FOUR SQUARE CHURCH	ACTON
1907036	NEW APOSTOLIC CHURCH BOUQUET CANYON	SAUGUS

Acton Foursquare Church (Water System 1900894) has proposed a system for the treatment of Nitrate in their potable water supply. The DPH-DWP is currently reviewing the proposal in conjunction with the CDPH. An alternative water supply is being provided while the system is under review.

Since the water treatment proposals require additional information, DPH-DWP has extended the review period until June 2014 and will continue to work with the church until final approval. In the interim, DPH-DWP has directed the facility to post a Public Notice informing the members of the church about the elevated levels of Arsenic and Nitrate.

New Apostolic Church Bouquet Canyon (Water System 1907036) has installed a system for the treatment of Nitrate in their potable water supply. Since the water treatment system did not pass the required monitoring period, the water company was required to complete modifications to the system and continue Nitrate sampling until June 2014. The DPH-DWP will maintain increased surveillance of their water quality until the treatment system has demonstrated efficacy throughout the pilot monitoring period required of newly-installed treatment systems. It is DPH-DWP's expectation that the water system will complete the evaluation period by June 2014.

## SUMMARY

Seven small water systems were cited during the reporting period for failing to perform the necessary bacteriological analyses. Five small water systems were cited for exceeding the Bacteriological Standard during this period. Increased surveillance and public notification continued at six small water systems designated as Surface Water and GWUDI. Increased surveillance and public notification continued at thirteen small water systems with historical Arsenic exceedances. Increased surveillance and public notification continued at two small water systems with historical Nitrate exceedances.

The laboratory analysis of water samples taken during the October through December quarter will be completed in late January 2014. The DPH-DWP will provide the report for that quarter on February 28, 2014.

For questions or for further information, please contact Richard Lavin, Chief of the Drinking Water Program, at (626) 430-5420.